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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/682,434	10/10/2003	Masaki Yoshinari	03-33 PHUS	2112

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EXAMINER

HINES, ANNE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2879

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/682,434

Applicant(s)

YOSHINARI ET AL.

Examiner

Anne M. Hines

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/20/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 8 and 11 are objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "a belt-shaped dielectric extended in the row direction and integrally mounted on the transverse wall" fails to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. A "belt-shaped dielectric" is not particularly pointed out in either the specification or the drawings. A belt, as defined by The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, is something that encircles. Based on the specification and drawings a dielectric which is distinctly pointed out, but not claimed, is described as a "rod-shaped dielectric" and is shown in Fig. 8, 47. The examiner has treated the claim on its merits assuming that the belt-shaped dielectric is the same as the rod-shaped dielectric. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itokawa (US Pat. No. 6,577,062) and further in view of Akiba (US 2002/0171361).

Regarding claims 1 and 10, Itokawa teaches a partition wall for a plasma display panel wherein a transverse wall extending in a row direction (Fig. 2, 10; Fig. 3) to define a partition between unit light-emission areas (Fig. 3, 15) adjacent to each other between two substrates (Fig. 3, 1 and 7) of the plasma display panel in a column direction; and a groove portion (Fig. 2, 10c) formed in at least one of a front-facing face and a back face of the transverse wall. Itokawa fails to teach wherein the partition wall is made of metal and an insulation layer covers an external surface of the partition wall. Akiba teaches wherein the partition wall is made of metal (Page 2, Paragraph [0018]; Fig. 1, 5) and an insulation layer covers an external surface of the partition wall (Page 2, Paragraph [0018]; Page 5, Paragraph [0071]; Fig. 1, 20) in order to improve the efficiency of the plasma display (Page 2, Paragraph [0018]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the partition wall of Itokawa to be made of metal with and insulation layer, as disclosed by Akiba, to improve the efficiency of the plasma display.

Regarding claim 2, Itokawa further teaches wherein said groove portion is formed in a configuration extending in the row direction with respect to the transverse wall (Fig. 2, 10c; Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 4, Itokawa further teaches wherein said groove portion is a slot passing through the transverse wall from the front-facing face to the back face (Fig. 2; Column 3, lines 23-24).

Regarding claim 6, Itokawa further teaches wherein a dielectric is fitted into said groove portion (Fig. 2, 10c; Column 3, line 66 through Column 4, line 3).

Regarding claim 7, Itokawa further teaches wherein another groove portion is formed in the other one of the front-facing face and the back face of the transverse wall in which said groove portion with the dielectric fitted therein is not formed (Fig. 2).

Regarding claims 8 and 11, Itokawa teaches a partition wall for a plasma display panel wherein a transverse wall extending in a row direction (Fig. 2, 10; Fig. 3) to define a partition between unit light-emission areas (Fig. 3, 15) adjacent to each other between two substrates (Fig. 3, 1 and 7) of the plasma display panel in a column direction; and a column-shaped dielectric extending in the row direction (Fig. 2, 10c; Fig. 3; Column 3, line 66 through Column 4, line 3) and integrally mounted on the transverse wall. Itokawa fails to teach wherein the partition wall is metal and an insulation layer covers an external surface of the partition wall. Akiba teaches wherein the partition wall is made of metal (Page 2, Paragraph [0018]; Fig. 1, 5) and an insulation layer covers an external surface of the partition wall (Page 2, Paragraph [0018]; Page 5, Paragraph [0071]; Fig. 1, 20) in order to improve the efficiency of the plasma display (Page 2, Paragraph [0018]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the partition wall of Itokawa to be made of metal with and insulation layer, as disclosed by Akiba, to improve the efficiency of the plasma display.

Regarding claim 9, Itokawa further teaches wherein said groove portion is formed in a reverse face to a face of the transverse wall on which the dielectric is mounted (Fig. 2; Fig. 3).

Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itokawa (US Pat. No. 6,577,062) and Akiba (US 2002/0171361) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kim et al. (US Pat. No. 6,603,260).

Regarding claim 3, Itokawa and Akiba teach the invention of claim 1, but fail to teach wherein said groove portion is intermittently formed in the row direction. Kim teaches wherein said groove portion is intermittently formed in the row direction (Fig. 6) in order that each light-emission area has an independent getter layer to remove impurities from the discharge gas (Column 2, line 66 through Column 3, line 2; Column 4, lines 61-62). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Itokawa and Akiba to have a groove portion intermittently formed, as disclosed by Kim, in order that each light-emission area has an independent getter layer to remove impurities from the discharge gas.

Regarding claim 5, Itokawa and Akiba teach the invention of claim 1. Additionally, Itokawa teaches wherein said groove portion is a slot passing through the transverse wall from the front-facing face to the back face (Fig. 2; Column 3, lines 23-24). However, Itokawa and Akiba fail to teach wherein said groove is intermittently formed in the row direction. Kim teaches wherein said groove portion is intermittently formed in the row direction (Fig. 6) in order that each light-emission area has an independent getter layer to remove impurities from the discharge gas (Column 2, line 66 through Column 3, line 2; Column 4, lines 61-62). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Itokawa and Akiba to have a groove

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portion intermittently formed, as disclosed by Kim, in order that each light-emission area has an independent getter layer to remove impurities from the discharge gas.

Other Prior Art Cited

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Amemiya et al. US Pat. No. 6,492,770

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne M. Hines whose telephone number is (571) 272-2285. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Anne M. Hines
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2879

Amtt 8/10/05

MSg 8/20/05
MARICELI SANTIAGO
PRIMARY EXAMINER